

IDNR Lake Michigan Coastal Program

Coastal Advisory Board Meeting

Wednesday June 17, 2015

6:30pm CST

Porter County – Woodland Park

2100 Willowcreek Rd. Portage, IN 46368

Attendees:

Voting: Kim Swift (Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore), Tiffany Tolbert (Indiana Landmarks/Historical), Ken Purze (LaPorte County – Chamber of Commerce), Frank Seilheimer (LaPorte County City or Town / Michigan City), Richard Morrisroe (Citizen at Large - Lake), Shannon Eason (Park and Recreation/Michigan City Parks), Jeffrey Katz (Porter County City or Town / Beverly Shores), Tim Kingsland (Lake County City or Town / Hobart)

Non-Voting: Kathy Luther (NIRPC), Elizabeth McCloskey (USFWS), Dr. Young Choi (Universities); Tom Davenport (US EPA)

Non-Board Members: Susan Swarner (Izaak Walton League), Bonnie Swarner (Izaak Walton League), Natalie Johnson (Urban Waters), Jeanann Ficker (PMG), Jane Neulub (Long Beach), Herb Read (Izaak Walton League), Katie Rizer (Coffee Creek), David Wright (SPIC), Charlotte Read (Izaak Walton League), Marino Solorio (East Chicago)

LMCP Staff: Mike Molnar, Maggie Byrne, Kacey Alexander, Dorreen Carey, Derek Nimetz, Dejan Koch

Old Business:

Kenneth Purze motioned to approve minutes from April meeting with Richard Morrisroe seconding this motion. There was a unanimous vote in support.

New Business:

Grants Priority Session:

Basics of Grants Program – LMCP provides technical and financial resources and coordination with partners. Program Area is based on the historic Lake Michigan Watershed. The Program makes available approximately \$600,000 annually for pass thru grants in partnership with NOAA. Since 2002, the LMCP has awarded over \$10 million dollars in grants for over 280 projects.

Eligible applicants include units of local government, area wide agencies, state agencies, colleges, universities, conservancy districts, Port Authorities, Basin commissions, and Non-profits with a few restrictions. The maximum amount that can be requested for a land acquisition project is \$150,000. For

low construction projects the maximum amount is \$100,000, and the maximum amount is \$50,000 for all other categories.

Grants are undertaken on a reimbursement basis with a 1:1 match rate. The projects are always required to be finished within an 18 month time frame. Extensions can be granted in certain circumstances. The required matching funds can be in the form of cash (donations), in-kind funds, and volunteer time. The match can originate from local, state, and private funds. No federal funds can be used as match.

Ineligible projects: Infrastructure, recreational facilities, wetland or habitat restoration (that is required as mitigation or a permit requirement), contamination clean-up, construction on privately owned lands, trail construction, parking lots, and roads.

Eligible Project Types:

- Low Cost Construction (physical change in property),
- Land Acquisition (fee simple, lease, etc.)
- Education & Outreach (improve connection between natural, cultural, or historical resources of Lake Michigan)
- Planning & Coordination Management (assist communities in coordination or management of natural, cultural, or historical resources in the area)
- Applied Research (studies that produce knowledge for cultural resources with demonstrated need)
- Emerging Issues (education and outreach, planning & coordination, or applied research – what is a hot topic now?)

Grant Priorities: certain project proposals may receive bonus points; others that do not meet priorities can still apply as long as the project fits the requirements of the RFP.

Top priority = up to 10 bonus points
Second priority = 0 – 5 bonus points
“Other” = 0 bonus points

Priorities justification should be brief and general. If a project can apply to more than one category, apply where it best fits/receives more points.

The CAB discussed the option of providing bonus points to land acquisition projects in support of the Bicentennial Nature Trust. Kenneth Purze motioned to keep 7 bonus points from last year for grants projects that utilize Bicentennial Nature Trust and Coastal Grants for land acquisition. This was seconded by Frank Seilheimer. There was a unanimous vote in support.

2016 Grant Program Timeline:

- June 17th – Public Input
- July 15th - Request for pre-proposals opens
- September 18th – Pre-proposals due
- October – Grants Committee reviews applications
- October 21st – Coastal advisory board votes on applications
- December 18th - Full applications due
- February 2016 - Director selection
- March 2016 - Projects submitted to NOAA
- August/September 2016 - Projects likely startup

The public input exercise and Coastal Advisory Board voting process was outlined in four (4) steps.

1. Suggestions for priorities written on flip charts
2. LMCP staff compiles, revise language as necessary, and presents
3. Coastal Advisory Board voting members vote using stickers – one vote for each category
4. Staff tabulates votes and then announces the top and secondary priorities for each category

After the voting was tabulated the top priorities in each category were:

Applied Research:

1. Urban biomass fuel planning
2. Natural area restoration, water quality improvement, or air quality improvement

Education and Outreach

1. Mighty Acorns new curriculum launch project
2. Invasive species management education for municipalities
3. Natural area stewardship and education for 3-12 grade students

Planning, Coordination, and Management

1. Planning for public access to waterways in urban areas
2. Urban forestry planning

Land Acquisition

1. Lands for public access to waterways in urban areas
2. Shoreline and nearshore habitat restoration

Low-Cost Construction

1. Public access to waterways in urban areas
2. Natural habitat restoration
3. ADA boardwalks to public beaches

Emerging Issues

1. Climate resilience planning for Lake Michigan shoreline
2. Public access for Grand Calumet River

Announcements:

The next CAB meeting will be the Coastal Advisory Board Field Trip starting at Purdue Calumet.

Next Meeting – August 19, 2015 – Informational Meeting – 10am CT